

Appendix table 2-12

Freshmen intending S&E major, by field, sex, and race/ethnicity: 1995–2010

(Percent)

Field, sex, and race/ethnicity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All intending S&E major	32.4	34.2	34.2	32.0	33.7	33.1	33.5	33.5	32.6	33.1	30.9	32.0	31.9	34.7	36.2	38.4
Physical sciences	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.4	9.3	9.1	8.1	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.7	8.3	8.1	8.8	9.1	9.8	10.4	11.6
Mathematics/statistics	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Computer sciences	3.0	3.6	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.2	4.7	3.1	2.4	2.0	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5
Social/behavioral sciences	8.9	8.9	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.2	9.6	10.4	10.5	10.2	9.6	10.5	10.4	10.9	11.1	11.4
Engineering	8.1	9.6	9.7	8.2	9.0	8.7	9.1	9.5	9.3	9.6	8.4	8.0	7.5	9.3	9.7	10.3
Male	39.2	42.2	42.4	39.1	42.4	41.4	42.2	41.2	39.6	40.8	37.0	37.9	37.3	41.1	43.4	44.1
Physical sciences	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.4
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.2	8.8	8.4	7.4	7.3	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	7.4	7.2	8.1	8.2	8.8	9.7	10.0
Mathematics/statistics	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Computer sciences	5.1	6.3	7.1	7.9	9.1	9.3	8.8	6.0	4.7	4.1	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.0	3.1	2.9
Social/behavioral sciences	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.6	7.1	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.5	8.6	8.1	8.2	8.7	8.8
Engineering	14.6	17.3	17.2	14.7	16.5	15.9	16.7	17.9	17.1	17.9	15.6	14.5	13.7	17.0	17.6	17.9
Female	27.1	27.9	27.7	26.4	26.8	26.2	26.7	26.7	26.2	26.3	27.0	27.2	27.7	29.5	30.3	33.3
Physical sciences	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.6	9.7	9.7	8.8	9.0	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.5	9.0	8.7	9.6	9.7	10.4	11.0	12.4
Mathematics/statistics	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
Computer sciences	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
Social/behavioral sciences	11.0	11.0	10.5	10.9	11.0	11.3	11.7	12.0	12.0	11.5	12.3	12.1	12.3	12.8	12.8	13.6
Engineering	2.7	3.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6	3.1	3.3	4.0
White/Caucasian	31.2	32.7	32.8	30.6	31.8	30.7	31.8	31.3	30.1	30.2	29.1	29.6	29.3	32.9	34.0	37.0
Physical sciences	2.5	2.1	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.8
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.3	9.3	8.7	7.9	8.0	6.7	7.1	7.1	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.6	7.7	8.6	9.0	10.8
Mathematics/statistics	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Computer sciences	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.0	2.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4
Social/behavioral sciences	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.7	9.0	9.3	9.5	9.1	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.8	10.1	10.6
Engineering	7.5	8.9	9.0	7.9	8.5	8.3	8.9	9.2	8.9	9.0	8.0	7.7	7.2	9.6	9.7	10.5
Male	38.1	40.8	41.1	38.8	40.1	39.8	41.0	39.8	38.5	38.9	36.1	36.6	35.8	40.2	41.5	43.8
Physical sciences	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.6
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.1	8.9	8.3	7.7	7.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.0	6.7	6.7	7.2	7.3	8.0	8.3	10.0
Mathematics/statistics	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Computer sciences	4.6	5.6	6.4	7.1	7.7	8.2	7.7	5.5	4.7	3.9	3.0	3.0	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.7
Social/behavioral sciences	6.9	6.6	6.2	6.0	6.3	6.6	7.0	7.2	7.7	7.3	7.5	8.1	7.9	7.8	8.3	8.4
Engineering	13.7	16.2	16.5	14.8	15.7	15.4	16.8	17.0	16.4	17.0	14.9	14.3	13.1	17.3	17.3	18.0
Female	25.4	26.0	25.9	24.2	24.8	24.0	24.1	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.1	24.0	24.7	26.2	27.6	31.1
Physical sciences	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.2	9.4	9.3	8.4	8.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.7	7.3	8.0	8.3	9.0	9.5	11.2
Mathematics/statistics	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8
Computer sciences	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Social/behavioral sciences	10.5	10.5	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.6	11.1	11.0	11.2	10.6	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.3	11.6	12.4
Engineering	2.3	2.9	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.9	3.2	4.0
Asian American/Asian ^a	41.2	48.2	45.8	45.4	48.3	45.3	43.2	43.8	44.5	46.1	42.3	45.7	44.7	46.6	50.4	49.0
Physical sciences	1.9	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.0
Biological/agricultural sciences	13.2	13.1	12.0	11.8	11.2	10.5	10.5	12.2	15.0	16.8	15.8	18.5	17.8	17.7	19.5	18.3
Mathematics/statistics	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2

Appendix table 2-12

Freshmen intending S&E major, by field, sex, and race/ethnicity: 1995–2010

(Percent)

Field, sex, and race/ethnicity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Computer sciences	5.3	8.1	8.2	9.7	13.3	11.5	9.6	4.7	3.1	2.2	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2
Social/behavioral sciences	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.4	6.9	7.0	7.8	8.4	8.4	8.1	10.0	9.0	9.5	10.0	9.6
Engineering	13.4	18.0	17.2	14.7	15.4	14.4	13.7	16.3	14.9	15.5	13.8	12.0	12.3	13.6	15.1	14.7
Male	50.3	58.4	58.7	55.4	60.4	56.8	54.6	55.3	53.6	54.3	49.6	50.8	50.6	52.7	56.7	54.5
Physical sciences	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.2
Biological/agricultural sciences	12.5	11.6	10.5	10.3	9.0	8.7	8.5	10.5	13.4	14.8	14.4	16.5	16.0	15.6	17.6	16.2
Mathematics/statistics	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.3
Computer sciences	8.2	12.2	12.8	14.5	19.8	18.2	15.7	8.4	5.4	3.8	2.8	2.6	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.5
Social/behavioral sciences	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.2	4.5	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.2	6.6	5.9	8.0	7.1	7.2	8.1	7.6
Engineering	22.1	28.2	28.2	23.7	24.9	22.8	22.6	27.8	25.2	25.9	23.0	19.7	19.9	22.0	23.6	22.7
Female	32.9	37.0	34.0	35.9	35.8	35.1	33.0	33.9	36.6	37.9	36.0	41.0	39.4	40.6	44.1	43.1
Physical sciences	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.6
Biological/agricultural sciences	14.0	14.4	13.6	13.2	13.4	12.0	12.1	14.0	16.7	18.6	17.4	20.0	19.7	20.0	21.1	19.9
Mathematics/statistics	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1
Computer sciences	2.6	3.7	3.6	5.1	6.7	5.6	4.3	1.7	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.8
Social/behavioral sciences	9.2	9.3	8.1	9.1	8.1	8.6	8.5	9.6	10.5	10.2	10.2	11.8	10.6	11.5	11.6	11.5
Engineering	5.0	7.1	6.7	6.2	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.5	7.2	7.2
African American/Black	35.7	36.9	39.0	35.1	37.1	37.5	35.0	35.5	33.6	34.4	32.1	33.6	33.8	32.8	35.7	36.5
Physical sciences	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.8
Biological/agricultural sciences	8.8	8.8	9.3	7.3	8.0	7.8	7.7	8.4	8.6	9.6	8.7	9.3	9.7	9.8	11.2	10.9
Mathematics/statistics	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Computer sciences	6.3	6.7	7.3	8.8	8.5	8.5	7.5	4.8	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.3	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.6
Social/behavioral sciences	9.6	9.8	10.1	11.2	11.3	10.9	12.3	11.9	12.1	11.4	11.5	12.7	12.8	12.5	13.3	13.3
Engineering	8.7	9.7	10.3	6.1	7.7	8.6	6.2	8.6	7.7	7.9	6.9	7.2	6.3	6.1	6.5	7.4
Male	40.6	40.9	45.1	37.4	42.0	42.1	37.5	40.3	36.4	38.1	34.3	35.7	34.6	33.6	37.1	39.4
Physical sciences	1.7	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.5	2.2
Biological/agricultural sciences	7.9	7.0	8.3	5.6	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.8	5.5	7.4	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.0	9.0	8.2
Mathematics/statistics	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Computer sciences	8.5	8.9	10.2	12.8	13.5	12.6	12.3	8.2	6.2	6.2	5.0	3.8	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.9
Social/behavioral sciences	6.1	6.1	6.8	7.1	7.4	6.4	7.3	8.1	7.8	7.1	7.2	8.4	8.2	8.1	9.4	9.0
Engineering	15.6	17.3	17.8	9.9	13.3	15.3	11.0	16.5	14.9	15.2	13.2	14.3	12.2	11.8	12.4	14.6
Female	32.8	34.0	34.4	33.6	34.5	34.3	33.3	32.6	31.4	32.0	30.3	31.9	33.8	32.3	34.5	35.3
Physical sciences	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.0	1.7
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.5	9.7	9.7	8.4	9.2	8.7	9.0	10.2	10.2	11.2	10.0	11.1	11.6	11.3	12.7	12.8
Mathematics/statistics	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
Computer sciences	5.0	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.4	5.7	4.4	2.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.1
Social/behavioral sciences	11.7	12.3	12.3	14.1	13.9	13.8	15.2	14.1	14.5	14.1	14.1	15.3	16.1	15.4	15.9	16.0
Engineering	4.5	4.8	5.2	3.5	4.3	4.4	3.3	3.9	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.4	3.2
Hispanic/Latino ^b	37.8	37.6	37.9	33.7	37.0	34.1	34.4	36.4	35.8	38.0	34.2	36.8	34.8	38.2	39.7	40.7
Physical sciences	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9
Biological/agricultural sciences	8.6	8.1	9.0	8.2	8.3	7.3	7.6	8.2	8.1	9.8	8.0	10.1	9.5	10.0	11.0	11.7
Mathematics/statistics	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7
Computer sciences	3.3	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.1	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.5
Social/behavioral sciences	12.5	11.3	11.7	10.6	11.1	12.6	11.6	14.0	13.6	13.1	13.5	15.8	14.6	15.6	15.3	15.6
Engineering	11.9	12.7	11.6	9.0	11.9	8.3	9.4	9.4	9.5	10.7	9.4	7.0	7.1	9.1	9.9	9.3

Appendix table 2-12

Freshmen intending S&E major, by field, sex, and race/ethnicity: 1995–2010

(Percent)

Field, sex, and race/ethnicity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Male	43.8	46.3	44.8	38.9	45.3	42.5	42.8	42.7	41.8	45.3	39.4	41.3	38.8	41.7	47.2	44.4
Physical sciences	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.4	1.6	2.1	2.6	2.3
Biological/agricultural sciences	6.7	7.7	7.9	7.2	6.7	7.5	6.8	7.2	6.3	8.1	6.6	9.6	9.1	9.0	10.9	9.7
Mathematics/statistics	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8
Computer sciences	5.3	6.3	6.7	5.7	7.5	8.2	7.8	5.1	4.5	4.2	2.6	3.3	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.7
Social/behavioral sciences	8.2	8.0	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.9	7.9	8.8	8.8	9.0	8.0	10.8	9.8	9.3	11.2	10.7
Engineering	21.7	22.3	21.2	16.7	22.4	17.1	18.2	19.0	19.2	21.2	19.9	14.2	14.7	18.1	19.6	18.2
Female	32.5	30.1	33.1	29.0	29.8	28.2	28.4	32.0	31.9	33.4	30.6	34.0	32.2	36.1	35.3	38.1
Physical sciences	0.9	0.9	1.4	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.7
Biological/agricultural sciences	10.2	8.3	10.0	8.7	9.7	7.3	8.1	9.3	9.6	10.9	8.8	10.7	9.8	10.9	11.4	12.9
Mathematics/statistics	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6
Computer sciences	1.5	2.0	1.6	2.8	1.6	1.8	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6
Social/behavioral sciences	16.1	13.8	15.6	13.4	14.1	15.7	14.6	17.3	17.1	16.6	17.3	18.7	17.9	19.9	18.2	19.1
Engineering	3.4	4.7	4.2	2.8	3.3	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.3	2.6	2.3	2.0	3.0	3.2	3.2
American Indian/Alaska Native ^c	26.8	31.8	31.2	28.2	33.5	30.5	34.2	30.4	29.9	28.0	31.8	35.5	35.8	26.9	24.6	27.6
Physical sciences	1.1	2.1	3.0	2.4	1.1	3.8	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.9	2.8	2.0	2.7	1.4	1.9
Biological/agricultural sciences	8.9	8.5	5.6	6.8	10.6	6.3	7.7	8.5	7.0	7.9	12.1	12.9	10.6	7.3	8.2	8.9
Mathematics/statistics	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.7	0.1	1.9	0.0	0.4	0.1
Computer sciences	2.3	3.5	7.3	4.8	5.0	3.5	5.4	2.7	2.7	2.1	2.6	0.7	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.5
Social/behavioral sciences	8.8	8.7	9.7	9.0	11.8	8.7	9.3	8.8	12.5	8.6	8.3	8.6	9.9	6.7	8.1	9.6
Engineering	5.6	9.0	5.4	5.0	4.5	7.6	9.1	9.0	6.4	7.1	6.2	10.4	9.2	8.2	4.8	5.6
Male	37.5	35.1	41.8	36.8	43.0	36.7	44.3	39.2	35.7	34.5	34.8	44.5	46.8	33.1	30.1	31.4
Physical sciences	1.6	2.1	3.7	1.1	1.5	4.7	1.8	2.3	0.4	1.3	2.0	3.2	2.8	1.9	0.6	3.0
Biological/agricultural sciences	10.8	8.8	7.3	7.1	11.3	6.3	7.5	7.2	7.1	8.4	13.2	8.2	11.8	6.9	10.4	7.5
Mathematics/statistics	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	3.3	0.0	0.7	0.0
Computer sciences	3.6	4.2	9.0	8.6	9.1	6.2	11.0	5.3	6.4	4.6	3.4	1.4	4.4	2.6	3.2	1.3
Social/behavioral sciences	8.5	6.3	9.4	9.9	11.8	5.1	6.4	7.3	8.0	7.0	4.0	9.5	6.9	6.5	7.2	8.4
Engineering	12.8	13.7	12.1	9.8	8.3	13.8	17.6	16.7	13.8	12.8	11.7	22.0	17.6	15.2	8.0	11.2
Female	22.0	30.7	27.2	22.0	28.0	24.6	27.5	23.9	25.9	24.0	29.9	29.8	29.0	22.7	21.5	23.6
Physical sciences	0.8	2.3	2.6	3.3	0.8	2.6	1.7	0.3	1.6	1.1	1.9	2.6	1.5	3.1	2.0	1.2
Biological/agricultural sciences	9.7	9.0	6.9	7.3	11.8	6.3	8.9	10.1	7.5	8.2	11.5	16.7	10.6	8.6	7.5	10.2
Mathematics/statistics	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.6	0.0	0.3	1.5	0.9	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Computer sciences	1.5	3.1	6.3	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.4	1.9	0.2	0.7	1.6	0.6	0.0
Social/behavioral sciences	9.1	10.4	9.9	8.2	11.8	11.5	11.7	10.4	15.4	9.6	12.1	7.9	11.8	6.8	8.9	10.5
Engineering	0.9	5.9	1.4	1.3	1.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.1	3.2	1.6	2.4	3.4	2.6	2.3	1.6

^aIn 1997 the Asian American/Asian category was broken out into six categories: Chinese American/Chinese, Filipino American/Filipino, Japanese American/Japanese, Korean American/Korean, South East Asian American (Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, etc.), and other Asian American/Asian. In 1998 the Asian American/Asian category used in prior years was restored. In 2001 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander was added as a category under Asian American/Asian.

^bHispanic/Latino includes Mexican American/Chicano, Puerto Rican, and other Latino.

^cThe category American Indian was changed to American Indian/Alaska Native in 2001.

NOTES: Physical sciences include physics; chemistry; astronomy; and earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences. Students may check more than one race/ethnicity, e.g., white and Hispanic.

SOURCE: Higher Education Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles, Survey of the American Freshman: National Norms, special tabulations (2011).